

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 00776 101821Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----101823Z 127827 /43
O 101755Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 989

S E C R E T RABAT 0776

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, MO, US
SUBJECT: AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN ON FEBRUARY 14

1. IN RESPONSE TO MY REQUEST FOR AN AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN BEFORE TRIP TO AMMAN, I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT I WILL BE RECEIVED ON MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14.

2. DURING OUR TALK I PLAN TO SEEK HASSAN'S LATEST THINKING ON THE SAHARA AND THE INTERNAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND ON HIS PLANS FOR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS PROBABLY LATE NEXT MONTH. I WILL ALSO ASK FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST (HE HAS JUST SENT FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI TO DAMASCUS, AMMAN AND CAIRO WITH PERSONAL MESSAGES), AND WILL COVER A NUMBER OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS SUCH AS TANGIER MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER, LARGE WESTINGHOUSE A GROUND ENVIRONMENT CONTRACT AND MARRAKECH-AGADIR-EL AYOUN RAILWAY PROJECT.

3. IF YOU HAVE INSTRUCTIONS ON "KENITRA PACKAGE" READY BEFORE MY MEETING, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR ME TO OBTAIN OUR INITIAL REACTION FROM KING TO THE EVENTUAL PHASE-OUT OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AND TO OUR DESIRE FOR A
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GEODSS STATION AND WHATEVER ELSE WE DESIRE TO HAVE IN MOROCCO. I DO NOT BELIEVE I SHOULD GO INTO ANY GREAT DETAIL AT THIS MEETING. RATHER I SHOULD MERELY STATE THAT I WISHED TO RELAY TO THE SECRETARY, PHIL HABIB AND YOU HIS PRELIMINARY THINKING TO ENABLE WASHINGTON TO DEVELOP A DETAILED PROPOSAL FOLLOWING MY RETURN TO RABAT. TO RAISE KENITRA FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER AMMAN

MIGHT UNNECESSARILY TAR THE SECRETARY WITH THIS "BAD NEWS"
FOR MOROCCO, WHEREAS LAYING THE GROUNDWORK NOW MIGHT FALL
MORE INTO THE CATEGORY OF CARRYING OUT UNFINISHED BUSINESS
STARTED IN THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION.

4. ONE POINT HASSAN WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY RAISE IS ANSWER
TO HIS REPEATEDLY AND PUBLICLY EXPRESSED HOPE FOR RENEWAL
OF INVITATION HE HAS HAD FROM LAST TWO PRESIDENTS TO VISIT
THE UNITED STATES (RABAT 6655). I CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE
HOW MUCH THE RENEWAL IN PRINCIPLE OF THE INVITATION WOULD
MEAN HERE EVEN THOUGH THERE NEED BE NO COMMITMENT WHATSOEVER
ON THE TIMING OF ANY ACTUAL VISIT. AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY
POINTED OUT TO AFN, SUCH A MOVE SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE, BE
COUPLED WITH MY INITIAL PRESENTATION OF THE KENITRA PACKAGE.
ANDERSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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